



Rockport Millbrook Meadow Committee

Town Hall, Rockport, MA 01966

www.millbrookmeadow.org

*Charmaine Blanchard
Marcia Lombardo, Treasurer
Aileen Morrissey
Frederick H. Tarr III*

*Samuel W. Coulbourn, Chair
Shannon Mason, Vice Chair
Barbara Sparks*

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 7:00 p.m. Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library

7:03 p.m. Vice Chair **Shannon Mason** called the meeting to order. Members present: **Marcia Lombardo, Charmaine Blanchard** and **Ted Tarr**. **Sam Coulbourn, Barbara Sparks** and **Aileen Morrissey** were absent. **Gunilla Caulfield**, Trustee of the Lura Hall Philips Trust and **Eric Hutchins** were also present. In addition, four Rockporters were also in attendance: Chris Wrinn, Rowen Lampert, Erik Radzinski and another friend Nick.

1. A Moment of Silence for John Sparks observed.

2. Update on Restoration Project: Shannon reported that there were no new specific details on the restoration front following the Visioning Session of May 21st. Milone & MacBroom will be getting a report to us after incorporating the public input at the meeting. Eric commented that Milone & MacBroom need to schedule a meeting with the technical advisory team first before it goes to the public. Further suggesting that reports need to be reviewed and revised by the technical advisory team then released to the public. Noted was to clarify what report we are waiting on: the full schedule of deliverables or just the summary from the visioning session then the full report thereafter. Eric finally suggested to start planning to report to the public now and not later.

3. Status of the Conservancy Board: Shannon reported that all members and advisors to the Conservancy are still in place. The Conservancy orientation and walk through meeting was canceled due to John's death and has not yet been rescheduled. The board still needs to meet each other, vote on officers, and create bylaws.

4. Status of Fundraising, publicity, community support: Shannon reported that the **PARC grant application** will not be pursued in 2014 and postponed to 2015 as several key details were not going to be available by the application deadline of 6/20.

Also reported was that the CPA board declined our **CPC application** this year due to mismatched timing of the ask and need. The board does believe in the project and is supportive, but believes next year would be better. Sam and Barbara are looking into whether an appeal is possible for this year's application.

On June 2nd, **Conservancy Board members Deborah Cowen and Maura Wadlinger** helped host a gathering at **Rowe Point** for potential private donors. Sam Coulbourn attended to give a report on the restoration project and status of plans. Donations were received and forwarded to ECCF for deposit to the Rockport Millbrook Meadow Fund.

Marcia reported that proceeds from **Motif #1 Day Festival** totaled \$256. Thanks were given to all that helped with the booth and all felt that the day went well with good traffic at our booth.

World Fish Migration Day, on May 24th, also went well according to Eric. Shannon reported that t-shirt sales and donations totaled \$137. The **COA Duck Race** went off at 11 with 765+ ducks released.

5. Visioning Session: Discussion on the meeting noted that it was thought to have gone well with about 35 Rockporters in attendance and organized by Milone and MacBroom. Shannon noted several emails of positive feedback that were sent to M&M. Eric noted that some discussion at the Visioning gave him concerns about perception of the public vs. reality. He gave an example of the flooding issue which gets discussed a lot as a problem in the Meadow when in reality, it does not have that many flood events. Shannon stated that rumors abound about the plans and emphasized the restoration is not designed to change the Meadow into something it's not, but give the area a foundation and infrastructure improvements it needs.

6 & 7. June Event Planning & Event Schedule: RGC Tour and Millbrook Meadow on 6/20 & 21st. The walking tour will go through the Meadow and guides will be on hand to offer history of the area and tables will be set up for picnic lunches. Shannon went over the volunteer schedule and highlighted where help was needed. Charmaine said she would work Saturday's first shift and Ted offered to help both days on the last shift. Shannon reported that Deborah has help coordinate with Candy Perry to borrow two tables and chairs. Shannon and Charmaine will work on finding some additional chairs. Shannon asked for help with small flowerpots for the tables and if anyone had tablecloths to borrow; Gunilla said she had a tablecloth, as did Charmaine. Charmaine offered to help with the flowerpots. Erik Radsinski suggested having some additional trash and recycling receptacles put in the Meadow for the tour as there are a limited number in the Meadow. Shannon said she would email DPW Director Joe Parisi about the possibility.

Upcoming Events:

Sun., August 10th: Thirty-fifth Acoustic Festival (12 m.-6 p.m.) Event organized by David Cutler. MMC will provide a table with information and sale of Meadow tee-shirts, etc.

8. Committee Business: Ted moved and Charmaine seconded, all members voted to approve the minutes from the May 14th meeting.

9. New Business. Discussion was initiated about the recent concerns voiced about the Willow trees in the Meadow. All agreed that putting an item on July's agenda to discuss would be a good idea. Some ideas were shared on repurposing the Willow's wood for sculpture, benches or other items. Also taking cuttings from these Willow's to root them for planting in other places in town or on private properties of those interested. Eric suggested that Toad Hall, which has a particular attachment to the Willows, might be approached for a grant to help facilitate these efforts or maybe their replacement.

Eric also mentioned that Elsa with M&M put stream gauges in the channel for calibration of water flow. He suggested we all take note of the levels when we are in the Meadow to assist the project. Readings can be forwarded to him via email. Just record the date, time of day, and what the numbers were at each gauge (closer to Beach Street or near the Founder's bridge, etc.).

8. Set Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 9th, 2014 at Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library.

9. Adjourn 8:12 p.m.

Approved:

Charmaine Blanchard and Shannon Mason

**Copy to: Town Administrator
Director of Public Works**